



I am Jim Runyon, Director of Grants and Governmental Affairs at Easter Seals Peoria-Bloomington. We provide Early Intervention services for children aged birth to three years suspected or diagnosed with developmental disabilities including autism, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, and many others. In FY12 we will provide essential diagnostic and rehabilitation services to more than 4,000 children and their families living in 28 counties across central Illinois. Easter Seals is the largest provider of Early Intervention services downstate, and as a member of The Autism Program Service Network is also the largest provider of diagnostic and direct treatment services for children with autism downstate.

Easter Seals is a Six Sigma organization focused on data-driven decision-making and continuous process improvement.

As a grants writer and manager I applaud the effort to move to budgeting and accountability based on identified priorities and measurable outcomes and results. My fear is that this process is moving too quickly. Like many in my field with similar responsibilities, I learned outcome based programming, measurement and reporting as a result of a lengthy and sustained educational effort sponsored by our local United Way as it moved from a funder of service organizations to an investor in programs that demonstrated positive community impact through identified and consensus service priorities and measurable results. This effort is now moving into its seventh year and the transition is ongoing. It has not been easy or without casualties but I believe that our local community can now be assured that vital yet limited resources are being directed appropriately and that those who receive funds are accountable to demonstrate their impact on the lives of those we serve. I am very concerned that a similar change this large in the state's budgeting process, not just for human services, but for the other five priority outcomes/or goals is too much, too fast and that this speed will result in unrecognized priority needs, interdepartmental strife, and devastating service provision gaps and omissions for some of our most vulnerable citizens.

I also serve on the Illinois Partners for Human Service Executive committee and as co-chair of the Peoria Council of IPHS which is comprised of twenty-five service provider organizations serving all human service sectors. Our member organizations have been closely following the Budgeting For Results process and

look forward to sharing with this commission our expertise and experience with:

- “Best Practices” and evidence-based solutions operating in our various fields
- Community service needs and service gap analysis
- Our outcome based programs, measurement systems, and reporting processes.

All the twenty five provider organizations in our local council have years of experience constructing and implementing programs based on logic models and measurable outcomes that improve the lives of those we serve and the communities in which we operate. We ask this commission to move forward with Budgeting For Results but to do so deliberately and thoughtfully. Please consult the best models available across the country but also take the time to listen to and incorporate the knowledge, expertise, and hard-won experience of dedicated human service providers found within each community across the state. This effort is too important to have it fail due to haste.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my thoughts and I, like my service providing colleagues in Peoria, look forward to sharing our essential programs and the measurable results as this Budgeting For Results process continues.

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